

Today's PDAs are more than just glorified diaries – they offer all the most important functions of a full-blown PC, with wireless networking, email and Office Suites. We pocket nine devices and show you what they have to offer



PDA MEGATEST

IN THIS REVIEW

Acer n35
Acer n50 Premium
Fujitsu Siemens Pocket Loox 420
Fujitsu Siemens Pocket Loox 720
HP iPAQ hx2110
HP iPAQ rx3715
HP iPAQ rz1710
i-mate JAM
O2 Xda Ili

A personal digital assistant (PDA) puts all your PC's most important functions in your pocket. Modern PDAs are useful for carrying your address book, diary and emails, but they are also powerful enough to play music and video files, as well as create and edit documents made with PC applications such as Word and Excel. Handwriting recognition software makes entering contact information and writing short messages practical while you're away from your keyboard.

Better still, most new PDAs can connect to the web, allowing you to send and receive email or browse the web wherever you are. Bluetooth and wireless networking allow them to connect to a mobile phone or wireless hotspot, and some PDAs have mobile SIM cards that allow them to connect independently using GPRS.

This month we've tested nine PDAs, from the simplest Pocket PC to top-of-the-range organisers with built-in wireless networking, mobile phones and digital cameras. We'll help you pick the perfect partner for your pocket.



CHOOSING A... PDA

Handhelds offer a bewildering array of features, from Bluetooth to built-in cameras. Arm yourself with the facts before you buy

When buying a PDA, as when buying a desktop PC or notebook computer, it's vital that you consider what you'll use it for. Although most PDAs now run the same Microsoft Windows Mobile operating system, previously called Pocket PC, different models offer varying combinations of power, battery life and features.

LEAN OR MEAN?

Performance may be important to you. While all the PDAs in this test are perfectly capable of performing tasks such as managing contacts and emails, if you plan to play games or video files, you should look for a PDA that scores well in our performance tests.

To test the performance of the PDAs in this group we used the Spb Pocket PC Benchmark suite from www.spbsoftwarehouse.com. This software tests the processor, file system and graphical performance of each device. You'll find the overall scores for each PDA on page 188.

SYNCHRONISED SOFTWARE

All the PDAs in this round-up have similar basic features. All but the high-resolution Fujitsu Siemens Pocket Loox 720 have 240x320-pixel colour screens, and all have the standard Microsoft suite of Windows Mobile programs installed. This includes pocket versions of Internet Explorer, Word and Excel. All the devices synchronise easily with Microsoft Outlook on your PC. None has a keyboard, but

entering information into the PDA is easy thanks to Microsoft's onscreen keyboard and handwriting recognition software. If you plan to write extensively on your PDA using the handwriting recognition utility, though, choose one of the faster PDAs as they decipher text more quickly.

Most people use a PDA primarily for carrying the contact information, calendar and emails from their PC and updating it while they're out and about. For this purpose, all the PDAs on test come with a synchronisation cable that connects to your PC's USB port. The Acer n50 Premium, Fujitsu Siemens Pocket Loox 720, O₂ XDA Ili and HP iPAQ rx3715 also include a docking cradle, which holds the PDA as it synchronises data with your PC and charges it at the same time. While propped up in its cradle your PDA can even act as a useful display to list Outlook's tasks, for instance.

PARAGRAPHS LOST

Unlike PCs and notebooks, PDAs do not store the data you enter into them on a hard disk. Instead, the devices in this group have between 27MB and 124MB of memory in which to store your data, documents and extra Windows Mobile programs for as long as your battery is charged. It's worth remembering that if the device runs completely out of juice, this memory is wiped. Fortunately, the PDAs here also have Secure Digital (SD) memory card slots for flash memory, which doesn't need power. Simply plug in an SD card to add extra non-volatile memory, some of which you can use to back up the main memory (see page 266). The Fujitsu Siemens Pocket Loox 720 also includes a CompactFlash (CF) card slot for extra storage.

You can also use the SD card slot to add a range of wireless connectivity devices. Most of the PDAs have only one memory card slot, though, so it's better to get the features you need built in to avoid too much card swapping. All but two of the PDAs on test can connect to your computer or phone using Bluetooth, and five can connect to wireless networks.

Two PDAs, the O₂ XDA Ili and the i-mate JAM, also function as mobile phones. Both can send and receive data over GPRS, enabling you to connect to the internet without any extra devices. If you want to use your PDA as a navigation tool, you could use the Acer n35, which has a built-in GPS receiver, or connect an external receiver using Bluetooth or a cable.

CAMERA OBSCURA

It's often tempting to buy the most gadget-laden device you can afford, but this isn't always the best decision. The digital camera function is a case in point. Several PDAs in this group can take digital



▲ For very long trips away from the office, it is important to have a PDA with a swappable battery

snapshots, but none comes close to the quality of a dedicated digital camera. If you really want a diary, contact book and camera, you may be better off buying a cheaper PDA and a separate camera. The same is also true if you want to make phone calls; having a phone and PDA in one unit may be convenient, but not all PDA phones are as easy to use as a dedicated mobile phone. Check our reviews carefully to find out how well they performed.

BRAIN DRAIN

A PDA is used mainly on the move, so it needs to have a good battery. We used the Spb benchmark suite's battery life tests to see how long each device could run under normal usage with its backlight on full. Most of the PDAs on test have a battery life of around four hours, although the i-mate JAM lasts for over five hours and the HP iPAQ rx3715 provides nearly eight hours of continuous use. If you need your PDA to accompany you on long business trips, look out for those that have detachable batteries, enabling you to carry a spare.

► Most PDAs will record audio, but some can record video and take pictures too



Pocket map: Acer's n35 has a GPS receiver built in



ACER n35

RATING ★★

PRICE £234 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.com

DETAILS www.acer.co.uk

Acer's n35 is similar to its entry-level n30 model, but it comes with GPS software and a built-in antenna.

FEATURES

The n35's GPS receiver adds considerably to its size and weight, making it one of the thickest and heaviest PDAs on test at 20mm deep and 165g. The GPS antenna is integrated neatly into the back of the case, but it can be tricky to pull out and feels slightly flimsy, unlike the rest of the PDA.

The n35's button design is more fussy than that of the others on test, and the short cut buttons below the main screen are awkwardly recessed and hard to press. A small joystick takes the place of the usual four-way navigation keypad, but it has no central Select button. Instead, items are selected using the thumb-operated scroll wheel on the left of the PDA or the touch screen. The n35 is also one of only two devices in the group without Bluetooth.

PERFORMANCE

As one of the cheaper PDAs on test, the n35 has a relatively slow 266MHz Samsung processor. It scored a below-average 1,366 points in the Spb benchmark and feels sluggish in GPS mode. The supplied Destinator software runs very slowly, and scrolling around the map and zooming in and out can be very frustrating. The Acer's battery life of just over three hours was also behind all but the rx1710 in our standard workload test. The user has 55MB of memory available for documents and programs.

VERDICT

At £234, Acer's n35 is cheap for a combined PDA and GPS system. However, while it works reasonably well as a Pocket PC, the GPS software runs too slowly to make the n35 a good buy.



Cheap for a GPS-capable PDA



Slow GPS software; no Bluetooth, so-so battery life

SPECIFICATIONS Samsung S3C2410 266MHz processor, 55MB RAM, SD card slot, Microsoft Pocket PC 4.2, weighs 165g.

Part code CP.N350H.025



ACER n50 Premium

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £240 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.com

DETAILS www.acer.co.uk

The n50 Premium is Acer's top-of-the-range PDA and comes with an impressive set of features, despite its modest price.

FEATURES

With its stylish silver casing, Acer's n50 Premium looks more expensive than it is. The plastic screen surround has a brushed metal effect and the back of the PDA has a similar faux-metal finish. Its design is simple and uncluttered, with two pivoting panels under the screen that activate short cuts to the home screen, calendar, contacts and messaging programs. Like the n35, the Premium has a joystick rather than keypad buttons to browse the PDA's functions but, unlike the n35, it acts as a selection button when pressed. The joystick is very stiff and hard on the fingers. A sliding switch on the left powers off the backlight and disables the short cut buttons.

The Acer has built-in infrared, Bluetooth and wireless networking and a bundled docking cradle, so it is not short of connectivity options. It is also impressively light, weighing 150g, and its 124MB of storage is enough to store plenty of documents and extra programs.

PERFORMANCE

The n50's 520MHz Intel processor propelled it to a score of 1,802 in our general performance benchmark, putting it far ahead of its nearest rival, the HP iPAQ hx2110. This speed is evident when running applications: Pocket Word and Excel start almost instantly and run smoothly. At 235 minutes, the n50's battery life is fine.

VERDICT

The Acer n50 Premium lives up to its name in terms of features. Its performance and multiple connectivity options are excellent, and its stylish looks belie its relatively modest price. Only the stiff joystick lets it down.



Stylish looks; great performance and connectivity



Stiff joystick

SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA272 520MHz processor, 124.27MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 150g.

Part code CP.N500H.024



FUJITSU SIEMENS Pocket Loox 420

RATING ★★★

PRICE £267 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.com

DETAILS www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk

The Pocket Loox 420 is the cheaper of the two Fujitsu Siemens PDAs on test, and packs a good number of features into its lightweight chassis, but is let down by its low storage memory.

FEATURES

The Pocket Loox 420 is finished in metallic grey and its styling is serious and unfussy. It is the second-lightest PDA on test at only 125g and the third-smallest after the HP rx1710 and tiny i-mate JAM. The square short cut buttons are large, easy to press and make a solid click, adding to the general impression of quality. The large directional keypad with centre selection button makes navigating menus easy.

Connecting the Pocket Loox 420 to your PC or the internet is easy, as you can choose between using infrared, Bluetooth, 802.11b wireless or the standard synchronisation cable. The Fujitsu Siemens loses out to the similarly specified Acer n50 in having only 62.75MB of memory available to the user, although this can be improved by adding an SD card.

PERFORMANCE

The Loox 420 has one of the faster processors in the round-up, which is reflected in its benchmark scores. Its score of 1,537 in the Spb benchmark puts it just behind its more expensive sibling and in the top four overall. That said, its performance lags some way behind that of the Acer n50 Premium. Its battery lasted a reasonable 240 minutes and can be removed, which means you can carry a spare.

VERDICT

This PDA is stylish and well made with a decent specification and solid performance. Its small size and weight are definite advantages, but Acer's n50 has the same features, better performance and twice as much memory.



Small and light; looks smart



Not enough memory for the price

SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA255 400MHz processor, 62.75MB RAM, SD card slot, Microsoft Pocket PC 4.2, weighs 125g.

Part code S26391-K150-V225



FUJITSU SIEMENS Pocket Loox 720

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £340 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.dabs.com

DETAILS www.fujitsu-siemens.co.uk

The Pocket Loox 720 is a premium product with a built-in camera and a great screen, but it's also rather large.

FEATURES

The 720 looks smart and neat, but the short cut buttons below its screen protrude from a curved surface, giving it an ungainly appearance. Like Acer's n35, it has a thumb-operated scroll wheel on the left side for moving through menus, but this doubles as a zoom control in camera mode. The 1.3-megapixel camera has a tiny lens and a small flash LED. Its pictures look OK on the PDA's screen, but when transferred to a PC there is compression and some bizarre colours. Photos taken indoors look washed out and indistinct.

The 720 is the only PDA here with a 480x640 pixel screen, and the higher resolution makes text and images very sharp. This screen also makes viewing web pages far easier than with the other PDAs. The 123.23MB of free storage is plenty for programs and documents. The 720 is the only device here with slots for both SD and CF memory cards.

PERFORMANCE

The Pocket Loox 720 shares its 520MHz Intel processor with the O₂ Xda Ili and the Acer n50. It's much faster than the O₂, but its score of 1,547 in our benchmarks shows that it can't match the Acer for outright speed. Its battery lasted a respectable 245 minutes in our test, placing it mid-table.

VERDICT

The 720 is fairly powerful with a good screen and lots of connectivity options, but its camera is a let-down and it is rather heavy. If you don't need the high-resolution screen, Acer's n50 offers similar features for less money. If you do want 640x480 go for Dell's Axim X50v instead.

✓ High-resolution screen; lots of memory

✗ Expensive; poor camera

SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA272 520MHz processor, 123.23MB RAM, SD/CF card slots, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 170g.
Part code S26391-K151-V125



HP iPAQ hx2110

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £234 inc VAT

SUPPLIER HP 08452 704215

DETAILS www.hp.co.uk

HP's hx2110 feels chunky and solid and offers good performance and battery life, but its low available memory and lack of wireless networking mean it doesn't get an award.

FEATURES

The hx2110 is part of HP's business PDA range and is evidently built to take a lot of abuse. It's a chunky device, and at 77mm is the widest here. Still, its rubberised edges make it comfortable to hold and it feels sturdier than any other PDA in this group. Its grey and silver finish looks smart and businesslike.

The hx2110 has a large screen surround, and with all this space to play with it seems strange that HP included such tiny short cut buttons. The directional keypad is particularly difficult to use and feels quite nasty. Bluetooth is included, but there is no wireless networking. Disappointingly, only 59MB of storage is available to the user. We expected to see more at this price.

PERFORMANCE

The hx2110's Intel PXA270 processor has one of the slowest clock speeds in this group, running at just 312MHz, but it performs better than the Samsung chips in the other iPAQs. A score of 1,629 places it behind only the Acer n50. It lasted for 248 minutes in our battery life test, bettered only by the i-mate JAM and HP's own rx3715.

VERDICT

Aside from its flimsy short cut buttons, the hx2110 is a highly desirable PDA with rock-solid build quality and great performance and battery life. Its feeling of durability makes it the best choice for heavy use. Without wireless networking and with only 59MB of memory available, though, it can't compete with the Acer n50 for value.

✓ Good build quality; decent performance

✗ Little available memory; no wireless networking

SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA270 312MHz processor, 59.55MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 164g.
Part code FA296T



HP iPAQ rx3715

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £288 inc VAT

SUPPLIER HP 08452 704222

DETAILS www.hp.co.uk

Solid performance, a good camera and astounding battery life make the iPAQ rx3715 an impressive, if expensive, PDA.

FEATURES

The rx3715 is pitched as a multimedia product; so its short cut buttons open the media viewer, photo album and remote control applications. The rx3715's Nevo software enables it to double as a remote control for various home entertainment products. A customised start screen provides easy access to more multimedia functions, but you can switch back to the traditional view of messages and appointments.

The rx3715's 1.3-megapixel sensor produces good-quality images without too much compression. This PDA also coped better in low-light conditions than the other camera PDAs. The rx3715 includes a fairly sophisticated image manipulation program, but with only 56.66MB of storage available you'll soon need an SD memory card to store your snapshots.

The rx3715 has Bluetooth and wireless networking built in, and can connect to the web using a Bluetooth phone or a wireless hotspot.

PERFORMANCE

400MHz is an average clock speed for this group, and the rx3715 is right in the middle of our Spb benchmark table with its score of 1,536. Its main advantage is its battery life. In our maximum backlight and standard usage test it lasted nearly eight hours, meaning it has almost twice the battery life of most of the devices here.

VERDICT

The HP rx3715 is expensive and its performance cannot match that of Acer's n50 or HP's own hx2110. At this price we'd like to see far more memory. Still, its incredible battery life makes it the best PDA for continued use on the go.

✓ Innovative TV interface

✗ Extortionate print costs; grainy prints; no xD card support

SPECIFICATIONS Samsung S3C2440 400MHz processor, 56.66MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 158g.
Part code FA281T



HP iPAQ rz1710

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £167 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.pcworld.co.uk

DETAILS www.hp.co.uk

HP's iPAQ rz1710 is the cheapest in this group. It is basic with few frills and poor performance. If you want just a small and light organiser to synchronise contacts and appointments with Outlook, though, it will do the job.

FEATURES

The rz1710's design suits its budget nature, with a simple black and grey finish. The overall effect is not unattractive, but this is not a device to show off. Just 13mm thick and weighing 120g, it's the smallest and lightest PDA in this group.

An SD card slot at the top of the unit provides extra storage, which will certainly come in handy as just 27.26MB of memory is available for contacts, appointment data, documents and extra programs. The rz1710 has all the usual Windows Mobile 2003 SE functions, but there's no Bluetooth or WiFi so you can connect to it only using infrared or a USB cable.

PERFORMANCE

The rz1710's Samsung S3C2410 processor is the slowest on test and runs at just 203MHz. This is illustrated in its benchmark results: 1,032 points in the SPB benchmark puts it firmly in last place. It's fast enough for browsing contacts and opening Pocket Word and Excel documents, but the Transcriber text entry function takes a long time to translate into text. The rz1710's battery life is also disappointing. While all the competition managed over three or four hours on one charge, the rz1710 could only manage two hours and 22 minutes in our test.

VERDICT

The HP rz1710 has the bare minimum of Pocket PC features and is a slow performer, but it's £67 less than any other PDA here. If you can live with the mediocre battery life, this is a cheap way to stay organised on the move.



Small, light and cheap



Minimal specification; small fixed battery

SPECIFICATIONS Samsung S3C2410 203MHz processor, 27.26MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 120g.
Part code FA289T



I-MATE JAM

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £390 inc VAT

SUPPLIER www.expansys.com

DETAILS www.imate.com



I-mate's JAM is a truly pocket-friendly phone and PDA combination. It is not as fast as the O₂ Xda Ili, but its battery lasts longer and it works far better as a phone.

FEATURES

Its rounded edges and silver finish make the JAM a classy-looking PDA. It is significantly smaller than the other devices here and has a smaller-than-average 2.8" screen, although it has a standard resolution of 240x320 pixels. Text is still easy to read, but entering information using the onscreen keyboard requires a delicate touch. Using the onscreen phone application with a finger is also fairly difficult, so those with larger digits may need to use the stylus for this.

The JAM's 1.3-megapixel camera produces better pictures than all the other devices on test bar the iPAQ rx3715. At 154g, it is heavier than its size would suggest, but it is still one of the lighter PDAs in the group. Bluetooth connectivity is built in, but not wireless networking. As the JAM has a SIM card, GPRS is available for mobile internet and email use.

PERFORMANCE

The JAM's 416MHz processor has to juggle both phone and PDA functions. Its resultant score of 1,275 puts it in second-to-last place, beating only HP's rz1710. Its battery life was excellent, though, giving nearly five and a half hours of PDA usage.

VERDICT

The JAM looks great and is far more convincing as a PDA and phone combination than the Xda Ili. It seems expensive, but it works out cheaper than the Xda Ili once the cost of a one-year phone contract is taken into account. Its solid combination of PDA functionality and pocket-friendliness wins it our Most Desirable award.



Works well as a phone; very good battery life



Small screen can be hard to use; average performance

SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA272 416MHz processor, 57.41MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 154g.
Part code 99HAK014-00



O₂ Xda Ili

RATING ★★★★★

PRICE £180 inc VAT on contract

SUPPLIER O₂ 08702 410202

DETAILS www.o2.co.uk

The Xda Ili has built-in GPRS and the ability to make phone calls; only the i-mate rivals it for connectivity. Unfortunately, its jack-of-all-trades is better as a PDA than as a phone.

FEATURES

You'll either love or loathe the Xda Ili's design. The front of the device has a melted effect, but it looks smart and feels well made. At 200g it is easily the heaviest in this test.

The Xda Ili is not short of connectivity options. Bluetooth, wireless networking and infrared are all supported. Connecting to the internet and sending and receiving emails on the road is made easy by the built-in GPRS support. The phone application works well, but sound quality during calls is muddy and indistinct. Its 122MB of storage is very generous, however.

The Xda is one of several PDAs in the group to include a digital camera on the back of its chassis. It took reasonably good pictures in dim conditions, but its picture quality is generally very poor with some bizarre compression artefacts and little definition.

PERFORMANCE

The Xda Ili is one of three PDAs on test to have a 520MHz processor, but its overall performance in our benchmarks reflects the fact that it is also running phone software. It managed to beat only the i-mate JAM and budget HP rz1710 in the Spb suite of benchmarks, scoring 1,350. Its battery life is average, lasting over four hours with maximum backlight usage.

VERDICT

The O₂ Xda Ili is available only with a phone contract, which explains its apparently bargain-basement price. If you want a mobile phone, the Xda Ili is a decent PDA at a subsidised price, but its poor sound quality is a big disappointment.



Feels well-made; lots of memory and features



Only available on contract; disappointing performance

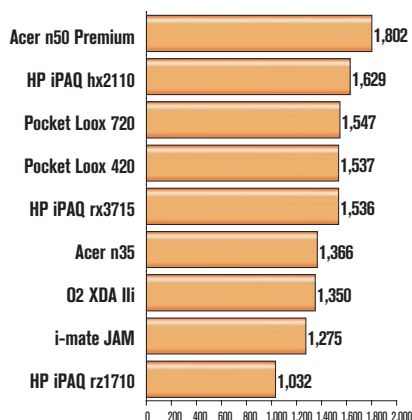
SPECIFICATIONS Intel PXA272 520MHz processor, 122.04MB RAM, SD card slot, Windows Mobile 2003 SE, weighs 200g.
Part code Xda Ili



MANUFACTURER	ACER	ACER	FUJITSU SIEMENS	FUJITSU SIEMENS	HP	HP	HP	I-MATE	O ₂
Model	n35	n50 Premium	Pocket Loox 420	Pocket Loox 720	iPAQ hx2110	iPAQ rx3715	iPAQ rz1710	JAM	Xda Ili
Rating	★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★
BASIC FEATURES									
Operating system	Microsoft Pocket PC 4.2	Windows Mobile 2003 SE	Microsoft Pocket PC 4.2	Windows Mobile 2003 SE	Windows Mobile 2003 SE	Windows Mobile 2003 SE	Windows Mobile 2003 SE	Windows Mobile 2003 SE	Windows Mobile 2003 SE
Processor type	Samsung S3C2410	Intel PXA272	Intel PXA255	Intel PXA272	Intel PXA270	Samsung S3C2440	Samsung S3C2410	Intel PXA272	Intel PXA272
Processor speed	266MHz	520MHz	400MHz	520MHz	312MHz	400MHz	203MHz	416MHz	520MHz
RAM available to user	55MB	124.27MB	62.75MB	123.23MB	59.55MB	56.66MB	27.26MB	57.41MB	122.04MB
Camera (resolution)	No	No	No	1.3-megapixels	No	1.3-megapixels	No	1.3-megapixels	1.3-megapixels
Button lock (hardware)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
Docking cradle	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Headphone/speaker socket	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (hands-free kit only)	Yes
Expansion slot	SD	SD	SD	SD/CompactFlash	SD	SD	SD	SD	SD
SCREEN									
Screen type	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective	65,000-colour transfective
Screen resolution	240x320	240x320	240x320	480x640	240x320	240x320	240x320	240x320	240x320
Screen size	3.5"	3.5"	3.5"	3.6"	3.5"	3.5"	3.5"	2.8"	3.5"
COMMUNICATIONS									
Infrared	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bluetooth	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
802.11b wireless networking	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Voice/data GSM communications	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
GPRS data	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
GPS	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
PHYSICAL									
Size (HxWxD)	120x72x20mm	120x70x17mm	113x71x14mm	122x72x15mm	119x77x16mm	114x71x16mm	114x70x13mm	108x58x18.1mm	130x70x20mm
Weight	165g	150g	125g	170g	164g	158g	120g	154g	200g
Battery type	Li-ion fixed	Li-ion swappable	Li-ion swappable	Li-ion swappable	Li-ion swappable	Li-ion swappable	Li-ion fixed	Li-ion swappable	Li-ion swappable
Charges from	Proprietary cable	Cradle/proprietary cable	Proprietary cable	Cradle/proprietary cable	Proprietary cable/USB	Cradle/proprietary cable/USB	Proprietary cable	Charger/USB cable	Cradle/proprietary cable
APPLICATIONS									
Calendar	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contact manager	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Notepad	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
To-do list	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Voice recorder	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Email client	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web browser	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
E-book reader	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Audio player	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Photo viewer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Video player	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Instant messaging	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Password protection and locking	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
View and edit Microsoft Office files	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BUYING INFORMATION									
Warranty	Two years RTB	Two years RTB	Two years RTB	Two years RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	One year RTB	Two years RTB
Details (www.)	acer.co.uk	acer.co.uk	fujitsu-siemens.co.uk	fujitsu-siemens.co.uk	www.hp.co.uk	hp.co.uk	hp.co.uk	imate.com	o2.co.uk
Price inc VAT	£234	£240	£267	£340	£234	£288	£167	£390	£180 on contract
Supplier	www.dabs.com	www.dabs.com	www.dabs.com	www.dabs.com	HP 08452 704222	HP 08452 704222	www.pcworld.co.uk	www.expansys.com	O ₂ 08702 410202
Part code	CPN350H.025	CPN500H.024	S26391-K150-V225	S26391-K151-V125	FA296T	FA281T	FA289T	99HAK014-00	Xda Ili

Performance

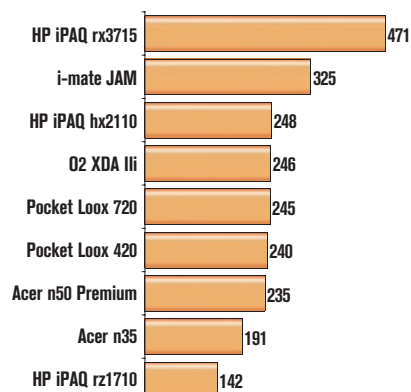
Spb Benchmark
Overall Index



Spb's overall rating reflects CPU, file system and graphics performance. You can download the benchmarks from www.spbsoftwarehouse.com.

Battery life

Battery Life (minutes with
maximum backlight)



This test performs a full discharge of the PDA battery using simulated everyday usage with the backlight on maximum.

LABS VERDICT

PDA's

All the PDA's in this test are capable of performing everyday tasks. If this is all you need, you could consider the simple HP iPAQ rz1710, although its battery life is disappointing. If you need your PDA to make phone calls, the i-mate JAM is the best choice. It performs phone and PDA tasks well, making it the most desirable device here. It gets our Most Desirable award.

If you need a PDA for long trips, HP's iPAQ rx3715 is ideal. It's not very powerful, but its battery lasted almost eight hours in our tests. For everyone else, we recommend Acer's n50 Premium. It's sturdily built with good looks, excellent performance and plenty of storage space at a great price. It wins our Best Buy award.

ACER
n50 Premium



I-MATE
Jam

